



II

Borough of Shrewsbury



REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1966

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BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR R. J. H. EDWARDS (Chairman)

ALDERMAN P. A. BATEMAN	COUNCILLOR E. F. HALL
ALDERMAN H. R. BECKETT	COUNCILLOR A. H. HOWL
ALDERMAN MISS E. BEDDARD	COUNCILLOR F. JONES
ALDERMAN J. F. BURGESS	COUNCILLOR G. T. I. MARSTON
COUNCILLOR E. T. DAWSON	COUNCILLOR L. McDONALD
COUNCILLOR MRS. G. I. DYAS	COUNCILLOR J. W. McKIERNAN
COUNCILLOR W. R. G. FARR	

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

A. C. MACKENZIE, M.D., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector

¶*C. STANLEY, Cert. R.S.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

*J. INNES, Cert. R.S.A.S.

*J. B. JONES, Cert. R.S.I.

R. R. ROBSON, Cert. P.H.I.E.B. (Appointed 9th May, 1966)

Technical Assistant

L. WOODCOCK

Chief Clerk

G. T. NICHOLAS (Deceased 27th March, 1966)

F. R. WOOTTON (Appointed 13th April, 1966)

Clerk

C. D. JONES

Abattoir Superintendent

*W. G. HUNTER, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.

Assistant Meat Inspectors

*J. T. GRIFFITHS, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.

*N. EDGE, Cert. R.S.I.

PART-TIME OFFICERS

Meteorological Observer

R. GRAY (Resigned 31st March, 1966)

A. S. MUMFORD (Appointed 1st April, 1966)

Public Analyst

J. G. SHERRATT, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

* Qualified Meat Inspectors.

¶ Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

HEALTH CENTRE,
MURIVANCE,
SHREWSBURY.
July, 1967.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1966.

The steady growth of the town and planning for future developments continues.

The general health of the inhabitants has apparently been satisfactory judging from three criteria. Firstly, the statistics of births and deaths, neo-natal mortality, etc., which continue to be near the national average. Secondly, the notifiable diseases, apart from measles, have been absent or nearly so, and no outbreak of the more deadly infectious diseases has occurred. Thirdly, General Practitioners have reported that their impressions have been of a "reasonable" year. The winter of 1966-67 has been a mild one, and this may well have accounted for the low incidence of upper respiratory infections which they particularly mentioned.

Planning for growth has continued throughout the year, and the health and well-being of future generations of "Proud Salopians" has to be jealously guarded. Attention has to be paid to housing, not only by the demolition or rejuvenation of old unfit property, but by the maintenance and improvement of border-line property, especially when that type of property is well-built but lacking modern amenities. New properties must also be planned to avoid previous mistakes and to foresee and avoid difficulties for future generations. This involves studies of such things as old-people's independence, future age structure, future traffic and noise control.

Good housing, clean air, clean water, clean food, freedom from excess noise and a pride in the Borough, are all factors affecting the health of the inhabitants. There are many more factors, but these are of particular importance.

As usual, other departments of the Corporation have been most helpful, and close co-operation is maintained between departments as it is between the hospital staffs and the Public Health Laboratory.

The policy of mixed appointments for Medical Officers of non-County Boroughs, Urban and Rural Districts, which is operative in Shropshire, whereby your Medical Officer of Health is also a member of the County Health Department staff, has enabled a close liaison to be maintained with the County Medical Officer of Health and other officials of the County Council.

The work of the department has continued in its rather unspectacular way, as shown by the tables of visits made by the health inspectors. Results from this work are generally not as obvious as the results of the activities of some other departments, but the standard of food hygiene throughout the town has improved over the years and "slum property" is, more or less, a thing of the past. Much credit is due to the patient, often unexciting work, of the health inspectorate.

I have to thank the clerical staff of the department for their hard work during the year, particularly for the efficient manner in which their increased duties have been absorbed.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. C. MACKENZIE.

Rateable Value of the Borough	...	...	...	...	£2,578,708
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£10,470
Area of the Borough (excluding water) in acres	...	...	...	...	8,034
Population (Registrar General's estimate, middle of 1966)	...	...	...	...	52,450
Persons per acre calculated on above population	...	...	...	...	6.5
Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1966)	...	...	...	...	16,781
		MALE		FEMALE	
Live Births	{	Legitimate 444		392	} Total ... 898
		Illegitimate 31		31	
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	17.1
Stillbirths :					
Number	...	...	...	...	15
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	16.4
Total Live and Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	913
Deaths	...	...	...	...	641
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	12.2
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	12
INFANT MORTALITY RATES					
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	13.4
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	10.8
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	48.4
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	6.7
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	6.7
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	...	...	...	...	23.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortions)					
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	113
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil

WEATHER CONDITIONS

As in the past thirty-seven years, daily readings and weather recordings have been continued at Monkmoor Hospital, where a Climatological Station, approved by the Air Ministry, is situated.

The particulars regarding 1966 may be summarised as follows :—

Rainfall.—The total rainfall was 32.17 inches, compared with 30.63, 18.81 and 20.84 in the previous years respectively.

The average rainfall over the last 37 years was 26.07 inches.

Sunshine.—The number of hours of bright sunshine recorded was 1,214.2 hours, compared with 1,298.9, 1,291.5 and 1,320.0 hours in the previous years respectively.

The average sunshine over the last 37 years was 1,345.7 hours.

Temperatures.—Extremes of temperatures during the year were:—

WARMEST DAY (Highest Shade Maximum), August 19th, 79°F.

WARMEST NIGHT (Highest Shade Minimum), September 4th, 60°F.

COLDEST DAY (Lowest Shade Maximum), January 19th, 29°F.

COLDEST NIGHT (Lowest Shade Minimum), January 19th and 20th, 18°F.

Weather Statistics, Shrewsbury, 1966

1966 Month	AIR TEMPERATURE IN SHADE °F				SUNSHINE IN HOURS			RAINFALL IN INCHES				
	Mean Maximum	Highest Maximum and Date	Mean Minimum	Lowest Minimum and Date	Mean Temperatures	Most Sunshine in one Day	Daily Means	Total Hours	No. of Rainy Days	Greatest Fall in one Day	Total Rainfall	
Jan.	29.879	41.2	54° on 28th and 29th	33.7	18° on 19th and 20th	37.4	5.6 on 30th	1.14	35.3	17	.42 on 1st	1.39
Feb.	29.554	47.9	59° on 5th	38.8	31° on 10th, 11th, 14th and 18th	43.3	8.8 on 23rd	1.52	42.7	17	.56 on 7th	3.45
Mar.	30.159	50.5	56° on 5th	38.3	25° on 19th	44.4	9.9 on 18th	3.39	105.1	14	.31 on 2nd	1.32
April	—	50.2	66° on 29th	39.4	28° on 4th	49.8	11.3 on 28th	3.02	90.7	20	.69 on 19th	2.97
May	30.020	60.5	75° on 2nd	44.0	36° on 28th	52.2	13.8 on 28th	7.06	218.9	16	.54 on 11th	2.23
June	29.961	66.8	76° on 9th	51.7	43° on 1st	59.2	14.1 on 3rd	4.63	139.0	15	1.22 on 17th	4.25
July	29.994	66.5	74° on 21st	51.8	40° on 18th	59.1	13.8 on 22nd	5.03	155.9	14	.45 on 10th and 31st	2.38
Aug.	29.962	66.4	79° on 19th	50.6	41° on 2nd and 24th	58.5	12.8 on 15th	4.99	154.8	15	.41 on 12th	2.39
Sept.	30.074	63.9	70° on 5th, 9th, 10th	49.1	40° on 20th and 21st	56.5	10.8 on 6th	4.07	122.1	7	.46 on 1st	1.52
Oct.	29.765	56.3	65° on 3rd	44.1	30° on 29th	50.2	6.9 on 11th	2.49	77.0	24	.56 on 14th	3.59
Nov.	30.008	47.4	54° on 12th and 13th	37.4	30° on 11th	42.4	5.8 on 9th and 14th	1.14	34.3	19	.78 on 5th	2.79
Dec.	29.780	47.9	54° on 28th	37.5	29° on 26th	42.7	5.3 on 6th	1.24	38.4	19	.87 on 1st	3.89
									1214.2			32.17

VITAL STATISTICS 1966 AND PREVIOUS DECADE

Year	Population (estimated) each year by Registrar General	Births		Deaths			
		Number	Rate per 1,000 Population	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
				Number	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Number	Rate Crude Adjusted
1956 ...	46,850	715	15.3	21	29	498	10.6 10.4
1957 ...	47,380	735	15.5	18	24	567	11.9 11.4
1958 ...	47,770	769	16.1	12	16	548	11.5 11.2
1959 ...	48,640	806	16.6	14	17	528	10.8 10.7
1960 ...	49,250	786	15.9	13	16	513	10.4 10.3
1961 ...	49,810	877	17.6	26	30	590	11.8 11.9
1962 ...	50,120	869	17.3	23	26	602	12.0 12.6
1963 ...	50,710	902	17.8	12	13	627	12.3 12.8
1964 ...	51,130	962	18.8	17	18	579	11.3 11.7
1965 ...	51,670	949	18.4	23	24	591	11.4 11.3
1966 ...	52,450	898	17.1	12	13	641	12.2 12.2

POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the home population of Shrewsbury for 1966, including members of the armed forces stationed in the area, was 52,450 compared with 51,670 in the previous year.

BIRTHS

The number of live births in 1966 was 898, compared with 949 962 and 902 in the previous years respectively.

The crude birth rate was 17.1 per 1,000 population, compared with 18.4, 18.8 and 17.8 in the previous years respectively.

Applying the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted birth rate becomes 16.4.

The 898 births may be analysed as follows :—

		Legitimate	Illegitimate	
Male	...	444	31	} 898
Female	...	392	31	

A comparison of the adjusted birth rate between Shrewsbury and the rate for England and Wales is as follows :—

				Rate per 1,000 Population Live Births
England and Wales	...	...	...	17.7
Shrewsbury	...	...	...	16.4

Illegitimate Births

There were 62 illegitimate births, compared with 76, 63 and 38 in the previous years respectively.

The illegitimate birth rate was 1.18 per 1,000 population, illegitimate births being a percentage of 6.9 of the total live births.

Stillbirths

There were 15 stillbirths, compared with 19, 12 and 17 in the previous years respectively.

The stillbirth rate was 0.29 per 1,000 population, the stillbirths being a percentage of 1.6 of the total births.

Causes of and Ages at Death during the Year 1966

CAUSES OF DEATH	NET DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT												
	Male	Female	under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over
	334	307	6	6	1	1	3	4	13	55	98	156	298
Tuberculosis, Respira- tory	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
Tuberculosis, Other forms	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infec- tions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	25	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	11	7	7
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	5	4	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	31	24	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	8	16	24
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	6
Vascular lesions of Ner- vous System	34	59	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	6	19	62
Coronary Disease, An- gina	84	51	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	16	28	41	49
Hypertension with Ht. Disease	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Other Heart Disease	28	44	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	6	14	47
Other Circulatory Dis- ease	16	9	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	2	4	15
Influenza	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Pneumonia	29	31	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	12	37
Bronchitis	28	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	6	14	9
Other Diseases of Res- piratory System	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Nephritis & Nephrosis	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malforma- tions	3	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Defined and ill- defined Diseases	16	25	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	7	11	17
M.T. Vehicle Accidents	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
All other Accidents	5	9	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	6
Suicide	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	1	1
Homicide and opera- tions of War	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

DEATHS

The number of deaths during the year was 641, compared with 591, 579 and 627 in the previous years respectively.

Of the 641 deaths, 334 were males and 307 females.

The crude death rate was 12.2 and, by applying the comparability factor of 1.00 provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted death rate was also 12.2.

Of the 641 deaths, 454 persons were 65 years of age or over.

If the main causes of death are grouped, it will be seen that 548 of the 641 deaths can be allocated to four groups as follows :—

(1) Heart disease...	...	...	...	...	210
(2) Other diseases of the Circulatory System including Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	118
(3) Cancer (including Leukaemia)	...	...	...	...	114
(4) Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Disease, including Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	106

There were 8 deaths from suicide and 4 from motor vehicle accidents.

Of the child population, there were 12 infant deaths (under one year of age), and 2 deaths of children one to fourteen years of age.

Causes of death are analysed in the table on page 10.

The death of a person over 75 years of age can be taken to be more than 50% due to the aging process and less than 50% to some specific disease or combination of diseases. In the latter case, the most obvious is generally named as the cause of death. It follows, therefore, that the seriousness of diseases which are named as causes of death of people over 75 can be exaggerated if only this group is considered. The age group 65 to 75 are also nearing the end of their life-span and the diseases named as causes of death in this age group may be significant or merely terminal events.

From the economic point of view, not only for the family but for the community, deaths under 65, if preventable, are of great importance, and many more diseases may be preventable than is at present appreciated.

During the year there were 187 deaths under 65. Of these, Bronchitis and Pneumonia (19) may not be any more acceptable as causes of death in 20 years than typhus and plague are today, while Lung Cancer, 14 cases, may be in many instances a self-inflicted disease. Accidents, suicide and homicide account for 16 deaths, obviously preventable. Coronary heart disease and Angina, 45 deaths, are considered to be less common in non-smokers than smokers and in those who take sufficient exercise and do not over-eat, than in those who are over nourished and sedentary by nature. A striking

difference in the incidence of fatal coronary artery disease is shown by the following figures. In the 40 to 49 age group, there were 6 males and no females, 50 to 59 age group 13 males and 3 females, and in the 60 to 69 age group 16 males and 5 females. It may be that housework protects from coronary disease.

Cancer of the breast (10 cases in females under 65) and of the uterus (3 cases) may also be considered curable if diagnosed early and deaths from these causes might also be considered as preventable. Indeed, cervical cytology and breast examination, both to detect the presence of cancer, are services which are being widely provided by Health Authorities as preventive measures under the Prevention, Care and After Care of Illness section of the National Health Service Act.

A comparison between the adjusted death rate of Shrewsbury and the rate for England Wales is as follows :—

				Death rate per 1,000 population
England and Wales	...	...	...	11.7
Shrewsbury	...	...	...	12.2

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 12, compared with 23, 17 and 12 in the previous years respectively.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was accordingly 13 per 1,000 live births, compared with 24, 18 and 13 in the previous years respectively.

A comparison between the Infantile Mortality Rate of Shrewsbury and the rate for England and Wales is as follows :—

					Per 1,000 live births
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	19.0
Shrewsbury	...	...	...	...	13.4

These deaths are analysed by causes and duration of life in the accompanying table :—

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 24 hours	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 month and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Prematurity... ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital Heart Disease	—	2	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	4
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	4
Gastro-Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	2	4	—	—	—	6	2	1	—	3	12

Perinatal Mortality Rate

The perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week of age combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) was 23.0 compared with 26.3 for England and Wales.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Dysentery

One case of dysentery was of peculiar interest.

The patient, a poultry slaughterman, was admitted to hospital for a minor operation but that day had developed abdominal pain and had passed five watery stools. He was seen in a surgical ward and the next day transferred to an isolation ward. With appropriate treatment he soon recovered from his illness, but to everybody's surprise, a culture from his stool yielded a dysenteric organism which was found to be a *Shigella flexneri* type I, b. This particular organism is not indigenous to this country and is not uncommonly encountered in monkeys.

Slightly sceptically, further investigation was made, and it was found that the patient lived in lodgings on a Shrewsbury Council estate and was the proud possessor of a "spider" monkey. On visiting the house, the Medical Officer and Public Health Inspector were surprised to find a rather sick-looking "spider" monkey in a two feet six inch square cage in the living room. A specimen of the droppings was obtained and that was subsequently found to contain *Shigella flexneri* type I, b.

Various investigations and unusual diplomatic activities followed. Firstly, the monkey's future. The patient had now recovered from his illness and was easily persuaded that the monkey was a danger to his health and that he would have to change his employment if he continued to be in close contact with the monkey. His landlady also agreed that this was not a suitable pet and indeed, her tenancy agreement specified certain allowable pets, the list of which did not include monkeys. However, the owner was faced not only with the loss of his pet for whom he had developed quite an affection—he used to carry the monkey around on his shoulder—but was unable to sell him without a financial loss. However, the Curator of a nearby zoo very kindly accepted the monkey for care and treatment, but in spite of treatment for a couple of months, during which the infection persisted, the monkey was obviously seriously ill and had to be painlessly destroyed.

Secondly, the monkey's past. The animal had been bought only a week before from a local pet shop where he had been for sale on display for four months. This shop had bought him from an individual who worked as a seaside photographer and who had had him for three months. He gave an untraceable address for the next contact and it is not known how the monkey came to this country. It was thought to be two to three years old and was apparently in good health until sold to the last owner since when it had been noted to be "off-colour".

Further investigation. One of the children of the family with whom the patient lodged had been "off-colour" for a few days, and *Shigella Sonnei* was cultivated from her stool specimen, but the

stools from the rest of the family were negative and they were all keeping well. The staff of the pet shop had all been well since before the arrival of the monkey, but were all very well aware of the possibility of infection from pet animals and have always been careful when feeding, handling and cleaning-up the animals.

No illness had been reported from the staff of the patient's place of work, and no *Shigella flexneri* had been isolated in the area for many years. No cross-infection appears to have affected hospital staff or patients.

The dysenteric diseases, although serious, are not the main danger to health from imported primates; being less common and less serious than that from 'B' virus infections (*Herpes simiae*)—a mild disease in monkeys which, when introduced into man, causes an acute ascending myelitis, usually fatal. Scratches, bites and even droplet infection, may spread the disease. As well as the dysenteric diseases, monkeys are also susceptible to tuberculosis, ringworm and scabies.

Cases of dysentery contacted from monkeys are not very common, but three cases of *Shigella flexneri* in children who had been in brief contact with monkeys in this country, as well as a report of seventeen cases from Germany arising where a group of five monkeys were kept as family pets, have been reported.

Most of the monkeys coming to this country are destined for laboratories. Some go to menageries, zoological collections and circuses, but quite a few are sold as pets.

Travel by sea gives time for infected animals to die, or at least show symptoms of the illness, before arrival in this country, but the increasing use of air transport has almost eliminated this desirable quarantine period. Most monkeys pass through holding centres in this country where newly-arrived batches can be quarantined, but a certain number come in seamen's kitbags or as personal pets, and may not be examined before being sold or exhibited. It would seem a wise precaution for all primates to be quarantined before sale to the public. These animals are all "temperamental" and the danger of scratches, bites and droplet infection, as well as the possibility of dysenteric infection from monkeys, should be better known to the medical and veterinary professions. Monkeys on display should be out of reach of children and the risk of having monkeys as pets, particularly in households with small children, should be common knowledge.

Measles

A sizeable outbreak started in the autumn of 1966 and carried over to the spring of 1967. A survey was made by questionnaire as to the opinion of the General Practitioners on the severity of the disease, the numbers and severity of complications, their use of measles vaccine, and whether they had any demand for vaccination from the parents of the families in their practice. The latter question

being of interest at a time when big improvements had been announced in the measles vaccine available, not only in its effectiveness but also in the absence of reactions.

On the nature of the disease, all sixteen reported that generally the disease was mild, but a few serious cases occurred. One Doctor reported that complications were both frequent and serious, one that complications were not frequent but those that did occur were serious, and one reported several cases of otitis media, all of which cleared up quickly.

Three out of sixteen General Practitioners had used measles vaccine—on contacts of a case in a Children's Home ; where there was a mentally-handicapped child in contact with measles ; where there was a family of three young children with a fourth expected, all the family being close contacts of measles and where it was thought that measles occurring at the time the new baby was expected would cause serious domestic difficulty.

On the question regarding the public demand for measles vaccination, eleven Doctors reported no demand and five minimal demand, but most had been asked for their opinion.

Five out of two hundred and thirty-three measles cases notified were admitted to hospital.

Outbreaks of measles during the last ten years have involved an average of at least 367 patients per annum notified cases which, with an average birth rate of just over 700 per annum, indicated that every other child will have had measles or, unless vaccinated, will probably get measles. If only one per cent have serious complications, i.e. four a year, this alone may well be considered a good reason to offer vaccination to all children, but the fact that every other child will probably have an illness which will cause discomfort to the child, anxiety to the parents and possible sequelae, indicates that the use of a vaccine, especially if that vaccine is safe and provides substantial immunity, lasting three to four years, should be given serious consideration.

Other notifiable diseases occurred as shown on the table, but their numbers, distribution, etc., were similar to previous years.

It is difficult to assess the frequency of non-fatal, non-notifiable diseases such as infectious mononucleosis, infectious jaundice, winter vomiting disease and non-specific enteritis, but it may be that notification of these diseases would not be looked on by the General Practitioners as a waste of time in view of the doubts of the epidemiology of such diseases and the possibility of prevention which may be achieved if more were known of the size of the problem, the chain of infection and other factors on which information may well be given by compulsory notification.

Monthly Notifications of Infectious Diseases, 1966
(excluding Tuberculosis)

MONTH	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Dysentery	Puerperal Pyrexia	Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	Food Poisoning	Erysipelas
January	—	18	—	2	—	—	—	—
February	1	15	—	—	1	2	—	—
March	1	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
April	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	—	6	—	3	—	—	—	—
July	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
August	—	7	2	—	—	—	—	—
September	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
October	2	37	—	1	—	—	—	—
November	5	63	2	8	—	—	—	1
December	2	69	3	8	—	—	—	—
Totals	14	233	7	22	1	2	2	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1966

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Number of Cases Notified										Total Cases removed to Hospital
	At all ages	At Ages—Years									
		Under 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 & upwards	
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever... ..	14	—	—	2	10	1	—	1	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—											
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia—											
Acute Primary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Influenzal	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis—											
Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	22	—	1	3	11	—	3	4	—	—	1
Measles	233	4	49	59	117	2	2	—	—	—	5
Whooping Cough	7	—	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	282	4	56	65	140	3	6	6	1	1	6

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24 „	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34 „	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-44 „	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45-54 „	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	1
55-64 „	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65-74 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 and over	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	6	3	—	3	3	—	—	1

The Phthisis (Respiratory or Pulmonary Tuberculosis) death rate for the year was 0.06 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.02 in the previous year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 AND 1951

Removal to suitable premises of Persons in need of care and attention

It was not found necessary to make any application for compulsory removal to hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The Engineer to the West Shropshire Water Board, Mr. J. H. Sabido, has kindly supplied the following information on the water supply of the town, accompanied by statistics of laboratory examinations carried out at Shelton Waterworks.

"The Board's Shelton Headworks have supplied the whole of the Borough's requirements, free of all restrictions during the year 1966. The average daily quantity supplied amounted to 2,848,195 gallons, which was equivalent to 54.30 gallons per head per day, and the maximum daily quantity supplied was 3,346,000 gallons on the 17th February, 1966.

Routine daily chemical and bacteriological analyses were carried out at Shelton on the water at the separate stages of treatment. The maximum and minimum results obtained from these examinations are given in the accompanying table.

During the year the practice of making routine chemical and bacteriological examinations of drinking water samples drawn from household supplies was maintained, 110 chemical and 180 bacteriological examinations were made from such samples, and all were found to be sterile. The water supply in general has consistently maintained the very high standard of purity demanded for water supplies in this country.

Further progress was made with the large scale extensions to the Headworks authorised under the Shrewsbury Water Order, 1962, and during the period under review, the main contractors for the civil engineering works, commenced the construction of the Alumina Saturation Tanks, Filters, New Settling Tanks, and Clear Water Well. These are now reaching their final stages of completion. Work was also carried out in providing an internal lining for the Water Tower, and for reconditioning the external surfaces.

A number of mains extensions and renewals were carried out comprising :—

65 yards	...	...	...	2 in. diameter
3,072	„	...	...	3 in. „
1,192	„	...	...	4 in. „
1,875	„	...	...	6 in. „

Total 6,204 yards—i.e. approximately 3.52 miles.

The following number of communicating pipes were connected to the Borough mains :—

356 No.	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter
27 No.	...	...	$\frac{3}{4}$ in. „
61 No.	...	...	1 in. „
5 No.	...	...	$1\frac{1}{4}$ in. „

Total 449 No.

Monitoring for the estimation of radio activity in the air, river water and final water, was continued during the year. The results obtained to date are within the accepted standards as laid down by the National Research Council”.

The position as regards dwelling houses in the town as at the end of 1966 is as follows :—

Total number of houses	...	...	...	17,181
Total number of houses with Corporation piped water supply	...	...	...	17,165
Total number of houses without a Corporation piped water supply	...	...	...	16

Fluoride

The fluoride content of the town's water supply is estimated to be 0.02 parts per million.

Swimming Baths

There are two indoor swimming baths available in the Borough. They are filled with water from the town mains. Treatment is by a process of alum precipitation, filtration and chlorination with a complete turnover of $3\frac{1}{4}$ hours.

During the year the water in the swimming baths was examined bacteriologically on 36 occasions. Of these, nine were unsatisfactory.

Drainage, Closet Accommodation, Sewerage and Public Cleansing

The Borough Surveyor, Mr. R. W. Gibb, has kindly supplied the following information.

“MAIN DRAINAGE

Number of existing houses connected to sewers	...	1
Number of new houses erected without connection to main sewerage system	...	Nil

Extensions or alterations : The New Rad Valley Sewer has been constructed to Bicton Heath and is now in operation, and the pumping station at Bicton Heath has ceased to operate. A length of new sewer has been laid to serve the Industrial Estate at Lancaster Road.

The present position as regards sewage disposal in the town as estimated during 1966 is as follows :—

Total number of houses in the Borough	...	17,181
Number of houses connected to Corporation sewers	...	16,892
Number of houses connected to independent sewage disposal works, e.g. cesspits, septic tanks	...	205
Number of houses relying on earth, pail or chemical closets	...	84

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

No alteration has been made in the collection of refuse beyond the alterations necessary to cope with the extension of new housing development. Agreement has been reached with Atcham Rural District Council to share their tip at Wenlock Road”.

Premises Inspected

The following summary indicates the number of inspections of various premises carried out during the year :—

Nature of Inspection							Number of Visits
Dwelling-houses under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	604
Dwelling-houses under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,386
Infected Dwelling-houses :—							
(a) Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
(b) Contacts	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
(c) Phthisis enquiries and fumigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Business Premises, including Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Cinemas, Dance Halls, Billiard Halls	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Factories Act, 1961 :—							
Factories with mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Factories without mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Works of building construction	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Outworkers' premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Offensive Trade Premises...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Stables, Piggeries, Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Houses let in Lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Drainage :—							
Inspection and Examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	297
Testing	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Public Sewers...	...	...	...	...	...	...	263
Clean Air Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	148
Smoke Control Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
Watercourses and Ditches	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Land and Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, Urinals...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

Nature of Inspection	Number of Visits
Vermineous Premises :—	
(a) Rats and Mice	665
(b) Bug Infestations	2
(c) Beetles	42
(d) Other Vermin	32
(e) Disinfestations	14
Food Hygiene Regulations and Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—	
Unfit Meat and Other Foods	120
Market Stalls	312
Butchers' Shops	120
Bakehouses	33
Factory Canteens	31
Restaurant Kitchens, etc.	197
Licensed Premises	149
School Kitchens	29
Hospital Kitchens	14
Other Premises	474
Section 16 Premises :—	
Sausage Manufacturers, etc.	14
Fish Frying Premises	27
Ice Cream Premises	107
Milk Sampling :—	
(a) Methylene Blue, etc.	132
(b) Chemical	49
Milk Shops and Dairies	81
Sampling of Food and Drugs (other than Milk) for Chemical Analysis	85
Food Vehicles	32
Food Poisoning Investigations	3
Shops Act, 1950	709
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	2,613
Pet Animals Act, 1951	47
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	69
Sanitary Accommodation at Farms	—
Welfare of Aged Persons	1
Visits not Inspections	576
Miscellaneous Visits	306
Total Visits by Public Health Inspectors	10,617

Notices Served

Administrative action was taken during the year to secure abatement of nuisances and to enforce the appropriate statutory enactments as follows :—

Subject of Notice	Public Health Acts	Offices etc Act.	Food and Drugs Act 1955	Factories Act, 1961	Shops Acts
Number of Informal Notices served	36	175	40	8	43
Number of Informal Notices complied with	33	480	25	3	114
Number of Informal Notices Outstanding (against Premises)	26	211	36	9	57
Number of Statutory Notices served	8	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	4	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices Outstanding (against Premises)	6	—	—	—	—
Number of Prosecutions ...	—	—	1	—	—

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Table A—Registrations and General Inspections

(1) Class of Premises	(2) Number of premises registered during the year	(3) Total number of registered premises at end of year	(4) Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection
Offices	15	280	29
Retail Shops	44	408	110
Wholesale Shops, ware- houses	2	35	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	2	77	30
Fuel storage depots ...	3	1	—
Totals	66	801	171

Table B—Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises

Total ... 2,613

Table C—Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of Workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
Offices	2,792
Retail Shops	2,796
Wholesale departments, warehouses	304
Catering establishments open to the public	669
Canteens	62
Fuel storage depots	5
Total	6,628
Total Males	2,626
Total Females	4,002

The Gowers Report, published in 1949, recommended that certain provisions applicable to factories should apply equally to offices and shops. The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, included many of these recommendations—a most important contribution to the health and welfare of non-industrial workers.

H.M. Factory Inspectorate enforce the general provisions of the Act in premises occupied by Railway Undertakers, offices in factories, premises occupied by local authorities and Crown properties. Mines and quarries are dealt with by the appropriate H.M. Inspectorate.

Local authorities are responsible for the remaining offices and shops—exceptions being made where people are self-employed, where the only employees are immediate relatives of the employer or where the total sum of hours worked by employees is not more than 21 hours weekly. The local fire authority deals with fire precautions.

At the end of the year there were 801 premises registered with the Shrewsbury Borough Council and only 15 of these still required to be inspected. Rooms had been measured up, and all the relevant detail had been recorded and filed. Notices were sent to the appropriate persons when infringements were discovered; and it is pleasing to comment that a substantial improvement in environmental conditions was effected.

Almost daily, the department had enquiries and requests for advice from owners, occupiers and others concerned with this legislation. This was a most welcome feature, giving rise to all-round satisfaction.

The principal difficulties encountered were in respect of temperature, ventilation and lighting. Temperature is prescribed in the Act; but heating facilities for summer do, sometimes, prove inadequate in the colder months. This matter called for a great deal of attention on the part of my staff. Ventilation, surprisingly, appeared to be insufficient in so many buildings, even in some of modern construction. Natural lighting away from windows was, as a rule, about 1% of that available outdoors. Artificial lighting, very often, was most inadequate. Legal illumination standards will, doubtless, be made eventually.

There were no prosecutions, no complaints (or summary applications) under the provisions of Section 22, and no interim orders granted.

Three applications for exemption were received. One, concerning running water for washing purposes and sanitary conveniences was agreed to. Two others—one in respect of sanitary conveniences and the other relating to the supply of running water for washing purposes—were refused.

Analysis of Unsatisfactory Conditions

	NUMBER FOUND	NUMBER REMEDIED
Lack of cleanliness	61	478
Overcrowding	11	20
Absence of thermometer or heating facilities	110	195
Inadequate ventilation	36	207
Unsatisfactory lighting	38	224
Inadequate or unsatisfactory sanitary conveniences	121	516
Inadequate or unsatisfactory washing facilities	95	469
Absence of drinking water	3	12
Inadequate clothing accommodation	29	91
Unsuitable or inadequate seating facilities	6	15
Seats for sedentary work	3	11
Inadequate eating facilities... ..	1	5
Defective floors and staircases	111	642
Inadequately fenced machinery	17	21
Infringements regarding regulations on health and safety	—	7
Infringements regarding regulations on noise and vibration	—	—
Dangerous conditions and practices	39	233
Absence of adequate first aid facilities	58	154
Failure to notify accidents	—	—
Failure to notify fact of employment of persons... ..	12	6
Absence of abstract of the Act	82	189
Number of informal notices served	175	
Number of informal notices completed	480	

Some 14 “notifiable accidents” were reported during the year and seven of these were investigated. One warning was issued, and informal advice was given where thought necessary. Happily, no serious accidents were reported.

The types of accident reported were as follows :—

Cause of Accident	Number of Cases
Non-power-driven machinery or relevant part in motion ...	1
Power-driven machinery or relevant part in motion	1
Machinery or relevant part at rest (power and non power-driven)	1
Stationary vehicle... ..	1
Electrical	1
Fall on or from fixed stairs	1
Other falls from one level to another	2
Falls on the same level	2
Stepping on or striking against object or person	1
Struck by falling object	1
Unspecified in official code	2

Finally, a word of thanks and appreciation to those members of H.M. Factory Inspectorate who were so helpful to us from time to time.

**Sanitary Improvements Effected at Dwelling-houses as a Result of
Statutory and Informal Notices Issued**
(Number of premises, 33)

	Number Complied with
Defective drains	—
Choked drains	7
Insufficient closet accommodatiou	—
Absence of proper sink	—
Defective water closets	4
Defective gullies	4
Defective sink	—
Defective sink waste pipes	1
Defective W.C. cisterns and fittings	3
Burst water pipes	—
Insufficient water supply... ..	—
Defective soil pipes	—
Dampness arising from :—	
Defective roofs	11
Defective eaves-gutters	1
Defective down-spouts	5
Defective brickwork and pointing	8
Defective damp-proof courses	6
Defective yard paving	3
Defective chimney flues	—
Galvanized metal dustbins provided	—
Defective window-frames and sash-cords	5
Defective floors	6
Defective stairs	1
Defective plaster to walls and ceilings	9
Defective doors	7
Defective fireplaces and cooking ranges	1
Defective wash-boilers	—
Defective and dangerous chimney stacks.	6
Defective and bulging external walls	4
Defective and bulging party walls	—
Filthy condition of premises	—
Accumulation of manure or offensive matter	2
Miscellaneous	3

Additional Unsatisfactory Conditions remedied by Verbal Intimation

Nature of Inspection	No. of Premises	Structural Defects	Dirty Condition s
Dwelling-houses (Public Health Acts) ...	19	18	1
Restaurant Kitchens	42	2	40
Bakehouses	10	4	6
Other Food Preparation Premises ...	5	—	5
Butchers' Shops	6	—	6
Hotel Bars	—	—	—
Business Premises... ..	2	—	2
Factories (Factories Act, 1961) ...	—	—	—
Ice Cream Premises (Sale/Man.)... ..	—	—	—
Shops (Shops Act)	1	—	1
Dairies	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	2	2	—
Caravans	—	—	—
Rat Infestation	—	—	—

Destruction of Rats and Mice

At the end of the year the number of premises under contract with the Corporation for disinfection was as follows :—

Business premises	...	...	...	53
Private dwelling-houses	...	...	...	1

The Rodent Operative made 1,591 visits to premises in the course of his duties during the year.

FACTORY ACT, 1961

The following statistics, required under the provisions of this legislation, are appended :—

Part I of the Act

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	10	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	233	131	8	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	21	7	—	—
Total	264	139	8	—

2. Cases in which **Defects** were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	2	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	7	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	9	2	—	—	—

Part VIII of the Act
Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel-making, etc. ...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Packing plastic hair curlers	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING

Building Progress during 1966

Houses erected by Local Authority	119	}	604
Houses erected by Private Enterprise	485		

Housing Statistics

1. Inspections of Dwelling-houses during the Year

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	941
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	81
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...	51

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Services of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their offices	45
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... ..	10
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	4

Official representations were made in respect of fifty-four houses and five shops with living accommodation, situated in three proposed Clearance Areas. Similar representations concerned twenty-two individual unfit houses in various parts of the Borough.

Some sixty-four unfit houses were demolished during the year, and seven individual unfit houses were closed for human habitation.

There remain, still, some two-hundred or so privately-owned dwellings which are considered to be unfit. They should be included in Clearance Areas or dealt with as "individual unfit houses".

The speed at which these houses can be tackled is dependent mainly on the rate at which suitable rehousing can be provided, and it is envisaged that the next four years could see the occupiers rehoused.

MUNICIPAL HOSTEL FOR MEN

The Superintendent, Mr. J. F. McCabe, has provided the following report for the year 1966 :—

“Charges.—41/- per week or 7/6 per night.

Number of beds available	...	...	41
Men paying weekly charge	...	...	2,038
Men paying nightly charge	...	...	411
Daily average	...	...	40 $\frac{1}{4}$

These figures show a continuous increase in the number of weekly bookings, 36 more than in 1965 and 78 more than in 1964. The figures for the nightly bookings show little change, 17 more than in 1964.

The demand for accommodation now exceeds the Hostel's ability to meet it. All beds are occupied most of the time, and men are being refused beds at the average rate of about one per week. There is an obvious need for an extension of the Hostel to something in the region of 60 beds or possibly even double its present size.

Residents.—There are about 30 men who can be regarded as more or less permanent residents of the Hostel. Eleven of these are retired men, 3 work at the Rolls-Royce factory, 2 work at War Department Camps, 2 work for Shrewsbury Corporation, 2 are unemployed but nearing retiring age, 1 works on coal delivery, 1 is disabled, and the remainder are engaged in building work. The remaining 11 beds are occupied by a variety of types ; some building workers, sometimes men on probation or discharged prisoners, or men discharged from mental hospital.

Illness.—Five men were admitted to hospital during the year, where two of them died ; one aged 57 years from bronchitis and heart failure, and one aged 62 years from cancer. The remaining three were discharged after short periods and returned to the Hostel. Two men who had previously been in mental hospital were re-admitted. Doctors also visited five other men who were confined to bed for several days with minor ailments.

Standards of Behaviour and Cleanliness.—The behaviour of the majority of the residents is all that could be desired, and they are mainly clean and tidy in their habits. Newcomers soon realise that a fairly high standard is expected, and they usually either conform to this standard or leave after a short period.

Although the residents in general are quite friendly towards one another, there is very little social contact between them, each one preferring to go his own way.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

At the close of the year there were registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations :—

Dairies	8
Retail Purveyors of Milk	91

Turbidity Test (applicable to sterilised milks)

The 10 samples proved satisfactory.

Phosphatase Test (a test applied to verify the efficiency of pasteurisation)

The 36 samples proved satisfactory.

Examination for Tubercle Bacillus

Cultural and animal tests were made on 16 samples—all of which were negative.

Methylene Blue Test

One hundred and eight samples were subjected to the Methylene Blue Test (an indicator of keeping quality), of which 11 were given unsatisfactory reports.

Brucella Abortus

Number of samples of raw milk examined	17
Number of positive samples found ...	Nil

Ice Cream

Premises registered for sale and manufacture	1
Premises registered for sale only	193
Premises registered for store only	Nil

Twenty-seven samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination. The results are tabulated below :—

No. of Samples	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Void
27	24	2	1	—	—

Food and Drugs Sampling

The 104 samples of food and drugs submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis comprised 93 foods (8 formal and 85 informal) and 11 drugs (all informal).

Some 101 were returned as genuine, and three, two foods and one drug, as not genuine.

An additional 54 "informal" samples of milk were tested for fat content on the testing machine at the Health Centre. One of these showed a fat content deficiency.

Remarks on Samples returned as Not Genuine

1. Pork Sausage (Informal)

This was a sample of pork sausage containing 330 parts per million sulphur dioxide preservative and 65.5% total meat content. Notice of the presence of preservative was not displayed. (Notice subsequently displayed.)

2. Buttermints (Informal)

This was a sample of sugar confectionary described as "butter-mints" but not containing a measurable quantity of butter. If the description of sugar confectionery includes the word "butter", the confectionery should contain not less than 4% of butterfat. (Vendor interviewed and label amended to comply with Regulations.)

3. Camphorated Oil (Informal)

This was a sample incorrectly labelled as camphorated oil, and consisted of camphorated opium tincture. (Vendor notified.)

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

	No. of Premises	No. fitted to comply with Regulation 16	No. to which Regulation 19 Applies	No. fitted to comply with Regulation 19
Bakehouses	6	6	6	6
Butchers' Shops	40	40	40	40
Bread and Confectionery	10	10	10	10
Fish Frying Premises ...	12	11	12	11
Grocers	113	113	113	113
Greengrocers	18	18	18	18
Hospital Kitchens ...	6	6	6	6
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	1	1	1
Licensed Premises ...	119	119	119	119
Restaurant Kitchens ...	57	57	57	57
Retail Warehouses ...	18	18	18	18
School Canteens ...	25	25	25	25
Staff Canteens	29	29	29	29
Sweet Confectionery, etc.	53	53	16	16
Wet Fish	6	6	6	6

Section 16 refers to the provision of suitable and sufficient wash-hand basins, an adequate supply of hot and cold water, soap, nail-brushes and drying facilities for the use of all persons engaged in the handling of food.

Section 19 relates to the provision of suitable and sufficient sinks, or other facilities, for washing food and equipment. The appropriate water supply must be provided in each instance.

Poultry Inspection

Number of poultry processing premises within the
 district 3
 Number of visits to these premises 25

Type of Birds Processed	Number Processed	Percentage Rejected as Unfit for Human Consumption	Weight Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption
Turkeys	3,110	.26%	Approximately 100 lbs.
Ducks	—	—	—
Hens	49,130	.76%	Approximately 846 lbs.
Broilers	36,950	—	—
Capons	1,690	—	—

The three poultry processing premises within the district maintained a satisfactory hygienic standard. These businesses have a small turnover, when compared with the large factory plants located in various parts of the Country.

More attention is being focussed on this particular aspect of food production, and it is anticipated that subsequent years will show a substantial increase in inspections made at these premises.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

Number of egg pasteurisation plants in the district—Nil.

Unsound Food

The following foodstuffs, being unfit for human consumption, were voluntarily surrendered for destruction :—

Bacon and Ham	...	...	...	...	375 lbs.
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	168 lbs.
Chicken	...	...	...	...	130 lbs.
Lamb	...	...	...	...	16 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	...	305 lbs.
Other Meat...	...	...	...	...	817 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	173 lbs.
Fish...	...	...	...	...	163 lbs.
Preserved Goods	...	...	...	...	3,050 tins, jars or packets
Other Foods	...	...	...	...	604 lbs.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR

The Superintendent, Mr. A. G. Hunter, has provided facts and figures for the report of the year's working :—

“The past year has been a busy one in that a far greater number of animals, especially sheep and lambs, have been slaughtered and dressed in conditions which had not got easier for various reasons. During the year premises were built adjacent to the Abattoir for a wholesale trader for cutting-up rooms and refrigeration. This trader during the year had undertaken to supply Supermarkets with quality beef, lamb and pork at competitive prices, and his increased trade has brought the throughput up to a higher level than had so far been achieved at the new Abattoir, but his mode of trading has meant some alteration in the method of working in the sales hall and chillers. Carcases, instead of being shipped out as sides of beef, complete pigs or lambs, may be cut into joints or quarters before leaving the premises or some meat is retained in the chillers for two or three days. This has caused congestion in and around the sales hall and chillers.

An Export Licence has been granted and this has meant the provision of isolation lairage. Also, pre- and post-slaughter veterinary inspection is compulsory for meat which may be for export.

There has been an understandable increase of scrutiny at all times but particularly during the slaughtering operation, when Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Veterinary Surgeons like to attend to ensure that good meat inspection as well as good practise is maintained. Also, Inspectors like to ensure that dressing is satisfactory and storage accommodation is suitable.

This year also has seen the introduction of the Meat Inspection Amendment Regulations, 1966, concerning matters such as the use of marking ink and individual stamps for stamping inspected carcases, procedures for casualty slaughter, no removal from slaughter-houses of uninspected meat etc. Details of inspection procedures and advice on hygiene have also been made available by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Guidance is also given on infection with *Cysticercus Bovis* in which differentiation can be made between cysts which are calcified, in which case the carcase can be released, and cysts which are viable or active, in which case the meat cannot be considered safe until chilled for the specified period, i.e. three weeks at 20°F., to kill off the infection.

Towards the end of the year we ceased to make use of wiping cloths on carcasses and instead we used only the high pressure spray-guns with wholesome water for washing them. Unfortunately however, the trade generally have not been too pleased about this and it may take some time before they get accustomed to the change and really accept it.

Since our throughput has increased by something like twenty per cent over the year we are still carrying on with the same inspection staff, in which case, we are inclined to be a bit overworked. Fortunately, our student meat inspector has been a great help to us in our efforts to keep up with the increased work which is due to the introduction of the new legislation and the additional throughput.

Generally speaking, there is little change in the diseased meat and offal rejected by us over the year, except that it has increased slightly ; but this is to be expected in view of the increased number of animals inspected. These figures are seen in the table accompanying this report and can be compared with the previous year's figures in brackets."

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

(Figures in Brackets are for 1965)

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	13,412 (12,945)	1,774 (732)	1,080 (731)	82,620 (54,075)	32,670 (31,078)	— (—)
Number inspected	13,412 (12,945)	1,774 (732)	1,080 (731)	82,620 (54,075)	32,670 (31,078)	— (—)
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	4 (1)	8 (8)	101 (58)	108 (96)	90 (76)	— (—)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	613 (345)	310 (235)	106 (65)	522 (396)	821 (691)	— (—)
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	4.57 (2.75)	17.47 (33.20)	9.81 (16.83)	0.63 (0.91)	2.51 (2.47)	— (—)
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (2)	— (—)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	266 (251)	— (—)
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	0.81 (0.81)	— (—)
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	7 (2)	2 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Carcasses submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration ...	2 (2)	1 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Generalised and totally con- demned	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)

Diseased and unsound conditions found in the animals dealt with caused the detention and surrender for destruction of a total weight in carcasses and offal of 35 tons, 7 cwts., 106 lbs., details as follows :—

Carcasses and Parts	19 tons 5 cwts. 29 lbs. (14 tons 7 cwts. 60 lbs.)
Offal	16 tons 2 cwts. 77 lbs. (11 tons 13 cwts. 3 lbs.)

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